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WESTHOUGHTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1954.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WESTHOUGHTON

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Westhoughton Urban District Council.

Public Health Committee

Chairman: Mrs. W. Kettle J.P., C.C.
Vice Chairman: Councillor A. Ormesher.

Councillors:

Mrs. Ashworth H. Green

J. Higson

H. Nickson W.E. Molyneux.

Public Health Officers of the Authority

Medical Officer of Health:

Ellis Taylor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors:

James Occleshaw	R.S.I. Certificates Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Other Foods.
Wilson Scott Astall	Certificates of R.S.I. & S.I.E. Jt. Board; R.S.I. Meat and Other Foods, R.S.I. Smoke Inspector.

Clerical Assistant:

Mrs. E.A. Holden.

Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Westhoughton.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District of Westhoughton for the year 1954 together with certain statistical information thereto, for your information and consideration.

STATISTICS

The population of the district in 1954 was 14,870, a further decrease on the figure ascertained at the census in 1951.

During the year a total of 199 births were registered, of which 9 were still born, so that the Live Birth Rate for the year under review is 13.4 as against 11.1 the previous year, and the Still Birth Rate 45 as against 35 in 1953.

Eight infants failed to survive to their first birthday giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 26 for the year, as against 10 deaths and a rate of 36 the previous year.

I am again pleased to be able to report that there has been no maternal death. The Maternal Mortality Rate therefore remains at nil.

The number of deaths, from all causes, was 178 giving a Crude Death Rate of 12.0.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Lancashire County Council, through its Divisional Health Scheme, 1947, has continued to provide the personal health services in the district, details of which will be found in Section B of the report, together with certain essential information in regard to other services.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

As previously the sanitary circumstances in the district have been kept under close supervision details of which will be found in Section C.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year.

Details of the various diseases concerned will be found in Section F of the Report.

Yours faithfully,

E. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the area.

GENERAL

Area of the district, in acres	-	5,554
Population - 1954, Estimated	-	14,870
Population - 1951, Census	-	15,004
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of year	-	4,946
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	£289

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

		Male	Female	Total
(a) Live Births -	Legitimate	96	90	186
	Illegitimate	4	-	4
		100	90	190
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population - 13.4				
(b) Still Births		7	2	9
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) - 45				
(c) Total Births		107	92	199

DEATHS

(a) Infantile -	Neonatal	-	3
	Other	-	5
			8

Neonatal Death Rate (per 1,000 live births) - 16

Total Infantile Mortality Rate (" " ") - 26

DEATHS (Cont'd).

(b) Maternal	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil
(c) Cancer...	29
(d) Measles..	Nil
(e) Whooping Cough	Nil
(f) Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil
(g) Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	Nil
Non-Pulmonary	1

(h) All Causes:-

Male	82
Female	96
Total	178

Death Rate (per 1,000 population)

(a) Crude	-	12.0
(b) Adjusted	-	12.6

The following is a statement showing comparative statistics for the years 1949 - 54.

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1954	190	13.4	178	12.6	9	45	Nil	Nil	8	26	3	16
Year 1953	172	11.1	164	11.6	6	35	Nil	Nil	10	36	4	24
" 1952	197	13.1	178	11.9	8	39	Nil	Nil	5	25	3	15
" 1951	178	11.9	197	13.2	4	22	Nil	Nil	3	17	2	11
" 1950	189	12.6	197	13.1	9	45	Nil	Nil	4	21	2	11
" 1949	197	13.2	164	11.0	9	44	Nil	Nil	7	36	-	-
Average 5 years 1949 - 1953	-	12.4	-	12.1	-	37	-	Nil	-	27	-	12

The following table gives the number of deaths from the various causes during the year 1954:-

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	1	-	1
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	3	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus and lymphatic neoplasms	5	8	13
Leukaemia aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	15	30
Coronary disease, angina	10	9	19
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
Other heart disease	22	22	44
Other circulatory diseases	3	4	7
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	-	5	5
Bronchitis	3	5	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	14	18
Motor vehicle accidents	2	2	4
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	-	-	-
Total	82	96	178

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

No material change.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Ambulance Service

Leigh Ambulance Station - Tel. Leigh 939.
Horwich " " - Tel. Horwich 673.

Care of Children - Children Act, 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancs. C.C. - Area 9.
Area Children's Officer - Miss. J.W. Cole,
89/91, Railway Road, Leigh.
Tel. Leigh 1658.

Clinics

1. Antenatal and Postnatal

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Thursday 9.30 - 11.30a.m.

2. Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination

(a) General Practioner Service
(b) Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton, by appointment.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Tuesday and Thursday 1.45 - 4.0p.m.

4. Ophthalmic (by appointment)

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
1st & 3rd Wednesday a.m. each month.
Last Friday a.m. " "

5. Orthopaedic (by appointment)

School Health Clinic, Jones Street, Horwich.
1st Wednesday each month.

6. Relaxation and Exercises Class for Expectant Mothers

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Tuesday 10.00 - 11.30a.m.

7. School Health and Minor Ailment

School Health Clinic, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Monday and Thursday a.m.

8. Tuberculosis Dispensary and Chest Clinic

(a) The Infirmary, Leigh.
(b) Civic Centre, Bolton.

9. Ultra Violet Light

Welfare Centre, Market Street, Westhoughton.
Tuesday and Friday 9.0a.m.

10. Veneral Diseases

(a) Civic Centre, Bolton.
Males and Females:-
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30a.m. - 12.30p.m.
2.00p.m. - 7.30p.m.

(b) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.
Males - Wednesday 2.00p.m. - 7.00p.m.
Females - Wednesday 2.00p.m. - 4.00p.m.
4.30p.m. - 7.00p.m.

Convalescence

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C. Apply to Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Convalescent Treatment

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board.

Health Visiting Service

A Health Visitor/School Nurse is employed full-time by the Lancs. C.C. in the district.

Home Help Service

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C. Apply to the Divisional Health Office, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service

Two District Nurses are employed full-time in the District by the Lancs. C.C.

Hospitals

Royal Infirmary, Bolton;
Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth;
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan; and other general and infectious disease hospitals situated in the area of the Regional Hospital Board.

Laboratory Facilities

Regional Hospital Laboratory facilities at Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries, and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

Maternity Homes

"Haslam", "Havercroft" and "Heaton Grange" Maternity Homes, Bolton. "Firs" Maternity Home, Leigh.

Midwifery Service

Two full-time domiciliary midwives are employed in the district by the Lancs. C.C.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children

Provision for their care is made by the Lancs. C.C.

Welfare Services

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C. Residential accommodation at Atherleigh Grange and Hourigan House, Leigh.

Xray Facilities

Available at the Bolton and Wigan Infirmaries. Special facilities for chest Xray at the Hospital Board's Dispensaries and Chest Clinics.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water Supply

Bolton Corporation supply the district with water which is derived from upland gathering grounds, and is treated and filtered before going into supply. The water is of good quality but being soft in nature there is a tendency to plumbo solvent action and all lead service piping is tined lined. All dwellings are supplied directly with water from the mains but from the point of view of quantity the supply to the higher parts of the district is distinctly poor. A Scheme involving the laying of new mains has been completed and it is hoped that this will improve the conditions now existing. Tenders have now been accepted for the commencement of the new service reservoir.

Drainage and Sewerage

This in on the combined system. There is one main sewage disposal plant at Rogers Farm and three subsidary plants at Dicconson Lane, Dog Holes Farm and Marsh Brook respectively.

Closet Accommodation

At the end of 1954 the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows:-

Number of Privy Middens	82
Number of closets attached to these middens	105
Number of Pail Closets	16
Number of Dry Ashpits	46
Number of Moveable Ashbins	5020
Number of Trough Closets (1 installation, School)	1
Number of Waste Water Closets	50
Number of Fresh Water Closets	5251

Conversions during 1954:-

Number of Privy Closets to Fresh W.C.'s	2
Number of Privy Closets to Pails	-
Number of Waste Water Closets to Fresh W.C.'s	3
Number of premises at which moveable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles	12
Trough Closets to Washdown Pedestals (two installations)	17

Public Cleansing

Refuse collection and disposal is carried out by the Local Authority under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector and during the year a weekly collection was maintained, the exception being during the holiday periods when a slight variation of schedule was unavoidable. The 44 hour week is compressed into five working days from March to October and extended to five and a half working days in winter, three motor vehicles being employed.

The privy middens which are situate in unsewered portions of the district are emptied regularly, all refuse being disposed of by controlled tipping.

Street scavenging is the responsibility of the Surveyor and is done with manual labour.

The amount of refuse to be dealt with continues to increase with the gradual growth of housing accommodation.

Salvage

The collection of paper and loose tins was maintained throughout the year and income from this source amounted to £520.

The collection of Kitchen Waste was discontinued early in the year.

Sanitary Inspections

Premises visited	1169
Number of visits:-	2941
Housing and Nuisances	977
Factories	199
Infectious Diseases	19
Rodent Control	9
Offensive Trades	34
Schools	141
Shops	254
Bakehouses	97
Fish Friers	20
Butchers Shops	224
Ice Cream Premises	21
Slaughterhouses	248
Miscellaneous	698
Defects or Nuisances:-	
Number discovered	237
Number abated	205
No. of Notices served:-	
Informal	147
Statutory	3

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

Outwork

There are no outworkers in the district.

Shops and Offices

No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and sanitary accommodation but 273 inspections of shops have been carried out on behalf of the Lancashire County Council.

Smoke Abatement

Twenty observations were taken during the year but no action was taken as a result of these.

Offensive Trades

We have one tripe dresser and one fat melter within the district, these premises are regularly visited.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common Lodging Houses in the district.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

Disinfestation

During the year no cases of bed bug infestation were dealt with by the department, but one house was treated for fleas with D.D.T. in solution.

Schools

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient, and regular colour washing of the conveniences is carried out. One school still has trough closets in use, 141 inspections have been made of the sanitary accommodation.

Factories &c

Regular visits were paid to factories.

Inspections	On Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuting
Premises without mechanical power	5	10	-	-
Premises with mechanical power	64	156	11	-
Other Premises	11	33	5	-
	80	199	16	-

Cases in which Defects were Found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	-	-
Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences	15	8

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

There are no premises in the area where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Rodent Control

During 1954 the work of rodent control continued, one part-time operative being employed.

All rat and mice infestations are promptly dealt with, private dwellings without conditions conducive to infestation, being treated free of charge. Treatment of business premises is charged on a basis of men's time and materials used.

Forty-nine surface infestations were dealt with and in addition the sewers and sewage works in the district were systematically treated twice, in February and August.

Camping Sites

There is one licenced camping site in the district which is occupied by one van.

SECTION D

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supply

There are 66 cow keepers in the district 23 of which produce graded milk. The milk produced on these premises was sampled on 138 occasions. Six farmers from the outside districts retail milk in the area and these supplies were sampled on 10 occasions.

A total of 132 samples were submitted for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli and of these 2 or 1.5% were found to be positive.

It will be noted that 1.5% of the samples of milk revealed the presence of tubercle bacilli as compared with 5.7% during 1953.

No milk supply was diverted for heat treatment.

All milk supplied to schools is heat treated.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, 72 persons were granted dealers licences to sell sterilised milk and 12 persons to sell pasteurised milk. Seven dealers licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested were also issued.

The Milk (Special Designation)(Specified Areas)(No. 2) Order, 1954, came into operation on the 1st October, 1954, and as this district is one of the specified areas all milk sold by retail for human consumption must now be specially designated milk.

Action taken by the local authority in relation to samples taken in the district:-

(a) Raw Milk

(i) Tuberculosis - biological test

No. of samples ...133..... No. negative ....131.....No. positive .....2.....

(ii) Methylene Blue Reduction Test

No. of samples ...122..... No. satisfactory.109.....No. unsatisfactory ..13....

(b) "Heat treated" Milk - "pasteurised".

(i) Phosphatase test

No. of samples ....16..... No. satisfactory..16.....No. unsatisfactory ...-....

(ii) Methylene Blue Reduction Test

No. of samples ....16..... No. satisfactory..16.....No. unsatisfactory ...-....

"Sterilised"

(iii) Turbidity Test

No. of samples .....4..... No. satisfactory ..4.....No. unsatisfactory ...-....

No. of notifications of tuberculous milk forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in respect of:-

(a) milk produced in the district	2
(b) milk produced in other districts	-

Result of Ministry investigations within the district during the year arising from notification by the local authority:-

No. of veterinary inspections	2
No. of cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938.	2
No. of animals seized	2
No. of cases reported negative where animals had been sold prior to investigation	-
No. of cases reported negative, no animals seized	-

Ice Cream

Forty-four premises are registered for the sale of ice cream which is mainly "prepacked".

Shell Fish

No cases of illness due to consumption of shell fish were reported.

Food Premises

All shops, stalls, vans, food stores, food preparing premises are inspected regularly as part of routine work and every opportunity was taken to press the paramount importance of real cleanliness at all times.

Bakehouses

Thirty-one Bakehouses are registered in the district and are kept in fairly satisfactory condition, 97 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

Meat

Five private slaughter-houses have been operating in the district since July.

Meat retailers premises are inspected regularly 224 inspections being carried out.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)... ...	43	139	Nil	277	1695
Number inspected	43	139	Nil	277	1695
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned... ...	14	32	Nil	26	98
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	32.5%	23%	Nil	9.3%	5.7%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned ...	-	1	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	29	Nil	Nil	67
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	0.9%	20.8%	Nil	Nil	3.8%

Food Condemned

The following foodstuffs were condemned and surrendered:-

Chicken	1 tin	Eggs (frozen)	14 lbs
Cooked Ham	64 lbs	Peas	7 tins
Pork Luncheon Meat	17 tins	Soup	3 tins
Beef	727 lbs	Tinned Chicken	12 lbs
Pork	173 lbs	Tongue Ox	102 lbs
Salmon	2 tins	Stewed Steak	16 tins
Fresh Salmon	16 lbs	Carrots (one tin)	6 lbs
Beans	25 tins	Beef and Dumplings	4 tins
Tinned Fruit	129 tins	Corned Beef	54 lbs
Milk	27 tins	Cheese	53 pkts.
Tomatoes	21 tins	Rabbit	4 tins

Food Poisoning

No cases have been reported.

SECTION E

Housing

Statistics

Thirty-nine traditional type houses were completed on Hindleys Estate and the following accommodation was in course of construction at the end of the year, 20 x 3 bedroom; 2 x 2 bedroom type on the New Estate No. 2 and 38 x 3 bedroom; 2 x 2 bedroom type on the New Estate No. 3.

Conditions - General Observations

Of the older houses in the district most consist of the four room cottage type, built in terraced rows. These are moderately well maintained but lack such amenities as baths and hot water installations.

Quite a few of these houses are now owner-occupied and in addition to being well maintained have been considerably improved.

Sufficiency of Supply of Houses

There were 435 applicants on the Council's Housing List, of these 256 were without separate homes and 179 were householders.

Fitness of Houses

Notices for essential repairs are constantly being served by the Department but there has been little opportunity for the improvement of housing standards, as distinct from the maintenance of existing standards.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over

Infectious and other Diseases.

Chicken Pox

The disease is not notifiable in the district. It is mainly of importance because of its tendency to simulate smallpox.

Diphtheria

No case occurred in the district. The need to continue immunisation, however, remains.

Dysentery

Two cases reported.

Acute Infectious Encephalitis

No case reported.

Erysipelas

No case reported.

Food Poisoning

This disease is notifiable under Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act. No case was reported.

Malaria

No new or recurrent case reported.

Measles

A total of 4 notifications were received as against 188 the previous year.

Meningococcal Infection

No case notified.

Paratyphoid Fever

No case notified.

Pneumonia

The number of cases increased from 3 in 1953 to 5 this year. Five died as against one the previous year.

Polioencephalitis

No case notified.

Poliomyelitis ("Infantile Paralysis").

No case reported.

Puerperal Pyrexia

No case reported.

Scarlet Fever

Six cases occured as against 10 in 1953. Again the disease was mild in character, no complications were reported, only two had to be admitted to hospital and all recovered.

Smallpox

No case or contact reported.

Tuberculosis

Two new cases of respiratory and three of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year as against six respiratory and one non-respiratory the previous year.

Whooping Cough

Seven cases of whooping cough were notified as against 26 the previous year.

Cases of infectious diseses (other than tuberculosis) notified during the year, 1954.

	Cases Notified										Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital
	Total cases all ages	Under 1	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over		
Diphtheria	-											
Dysentery	2			1				1				
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-											
Erysipelas	-											
Food Poisoning	-											
Measles	4		1	3								
Meningococcal Infection	-											
Pneumonia	5			1	1				2	1		
Polioencephalitis	-											
Poliomyelitis	-											
Puerperal Pyrexia	-											
Scarlet Fever	6		2	1	1	1		1				2
Small Pox	-											
Whooping Cough	7		3	4								
Total	24		6	10	2	1		2	2	1		2

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality during 1954.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			1	1				
5								
10				1				
15								
20								
25								
35	1							
45	1							
55								
65 and over								
	2	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
	2		3		Nil		Nil	